

A is an element selected from the group consisting of Co and Mn;

B is an element selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Mn, B, Mg, Ca, Sr,

Ba, Ti, V, Cr, Fe, Cu and Al; and

C is an element selected from the group consisting of Ni, Co, Mn, B, Mg, Ca, Sr,

Ba, Ti, V, Cr, Fe, Cu and Al.

8. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising a positive active material, the positive active material comprising a core comprising at least one compound represented by Formula 1 and an active metal oxide shell formed on the core, the active metal oxide being capable of stabilizing a structure of the active material, and the active metal oxide being free from lithium:

Formula 1



where $0 \leq x \leq 0.3$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.01$;

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12. (Amended) A positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

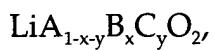
a core comprising LiCoO_2 ; and

an active metal oxide shell formed on the core, the active metal oxide shell being free from lithium.

18. (Amended) A positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery prepared by producing a crystalline powder or a semi-crystalline powder of Formula 1; coating the crystalline powder or the semi-crystalline powder with a metal alkoxide suspension; and heat-treating the coated powder,

the positive active material comprising a core and an active metal oxide shell formed on the core, the metal oxide being capable of stabilizing the structure of the active material, and the metal oxide being free from lithium:

Formula 1



where $0 \leq x \leq 0.3$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.01$;

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24. (Amended) A positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core comprising LiCoO_2 ; and

an active Al_2O_3 shell formed on the core, the Al_2O_3 shell being free from lithium.
